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**A Publication of the**  
**EXAMINING BOARD OF ARCHITECTS, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS,**  
**PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, DESIGNERS AND LAND SURVEYORS**  
**Volume 9, No. 1** **February, 2001**

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**Secretary Marlene Cummings Retires from State Service**

Governor Tommy G. Thompson announced that Marlene Cummings will retire after serving 14 years as Secretary of the Department of Regulation and Licensing to pursue private interests.

Governor Thompson thanked Secretary Cummings for her years of outstanding work and guidance on licensing issues.

Secretary Cummings, who will retire from state service on February 25, 2001, had served with Governor Thompson since the beginning of his administration and was one of his first cabinet appointments.

“Marlene truly is a great friend, a great leader and a source of stability within the administration,” Governor Thompson said. “We will miss her sound judgment and her innovative ideas. She has worked well with the licensing boards and her resignation will be a great loss for hundreds of board members and the entire state of Wisconsin.”

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Governor Thompson said Secretary Cummings has had an extremely successful tenure that emphasized changes in the handling of disciplinary complaints and adopted innovative disciplinary procedures. Her innovations have included an agency time-line for handling complaints, the use of mandated education and a procedure for managing professionals with drug and alcohol addictions.

“My 14 years of service in Governor Thompson’s administration have been both inspiring and challenging,” Secretary Cummings said. “We were often at the forefront of significant business and health care developments.” Secretary Cummings also thanked Governor Thompson for his encouragement and the opportunity to serve, and wished him great success as a member of President Bush’s cabinet.

Secretary Cummings says she is retiring to devote more time to her family. She said that she also needs more time for research and writing.

#### **Proposed Administrative Rules Related to Electronic Signatures**

The Board will hold a public hearing at 1:15 p.m. April 11, 2001, in room 179A at 1400 East Washington Avenue, Madison. The purpose of the hearing is for the Board to receive the oral or written comments from the public on the rule. Interested persons are invited to present information at the hearing. Persons appearing may send requests for copies of the rule and written comments to A-E Joint Board, Post Office Box 8935, Madison Wisconsin 53708-8945. The deadline for submitting written comments will be 4:30 p.m. on April 25, 2001.

Current rules for the Examining Board Of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers and Land Surveyors require all registration seals or stamps affixed to drawings and specifications to be filed as public documents to be original.

The objective of the rule is to authorize registrants to use electronic signatures, to include use of registration seals or stamps, when submitting drawings and specifications as public documents, as permitted by the government unit receiving the drawings and specifications. This proposed change would enhance the options consistent with available technology and need a more efficient means to submit original documents required as public records.

The proposed rule would revise A-E 2.02 (7), to include reference to affixing a seal or stamp to

specifications as well as drawings to be filed as original documents. The rule also clarifies which authority a registrant must follow when using electronic signatures.

#### **Important Message From the Department of Workforce Development**

Failure to pay court-ordered child support may result in the suspension or non-renewal of professional licenses.

Recently enacted Wisconsin laws give local child support agencies the ability to request suspension or denial of licenses of people whose names appear on the Child Support Lien Docket and who owe more than \$1,000 or three months’ worth of child support.

Past-due child support creates a lien against all of a payer’s titled property. The lien is entered into Wisconsin’s Child Support Lien Docket when past-due support reaches a specified threshold. In January 2001, the threshold amount was \$20,000 in past-due support.

Child support agencies will notify payers at the time their names are added to the Child Support Lien Docket and prior to initiating license suspension action. Satisfaction (payment in full) of the child support lien, or entering into and complying with a plan to pay off the past-due support, will halt license suspension action.

For more information about Child Support Liens and license suspension, please contact your local child support agency.

#### **Credential Non-Renewal**

The Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing renews the credentials of registered and licensed professionals pursuant to Section 440.08 of the Wisconsin Statutes. It is very important for you to provide the Department of Regulation and Licensing with any changes in address to ensure receiving renewal material. Failure to receive a notice of renewal does not relieve the holder from the obligation of having a current credential. According to A-E 2.05 (1), if a credential holder is late with his or her renewal, but is within five years after the renewal date, the credential shall be renewed upon payment of the renewal fee and a late filing fee. On the other hand, A-E 2.05 (2) (a) says: *If a licensee applies for renewal of his or her credential more than 5 years after its expiration, the board shall determine whether the applicant is*

*competent to practice under the credential in this state.* The importance of timely renewal of credentials is to avoid practicing without a license.

Practicing without the appropriate credential has many ramifications. The non-renewal of the professional license puts the professional in the position of practicing without a license. Practicing without a license is subject to disciplinary action. Other consequences of practicing without a license include the invalidation of malpractice insurance or liability insurance.

A current credential is a necessary component for a professional to practice his or her field to the fullest capacity. It behooves all professionals to stay abreast of the renewal dates for their specific field and abide by the appropriate Wisconsin statutes or administrative rules.

### **Lists of Registrants**

The Department has implemented 1999 Wisconsin Act 88, which limits the disclosure of personal identifiers by the Department on lists that contain the personal identifiers of 10 or more individuals. A “personal identifier” is a name, social security number telephone number, street address, post office box number or 9-digit extended zip code. Thus, any form that the Department requires you to complete, in order to apply for or renew a credential, must include a place for you to declare that the personal identifiers collected on the form may not be disclosed on any list that the department or a credentialing board furnishes to another person. If you complete such a declaration the Department will not be permitted to disclose your personal identifiers on such lists. Exception: lists furnished to another state agency, a law enforcement agency or a federal governmental agency.

### **Reports of Disciplinary Decisions**

The Department of Regulation and Licensing publishes the Reports of Decisions on a monthly basis. The reports contain disciplinary orders issued by the professional regulatory boards and by the Department. You may access these disciplinary orders at the department’s Web site. The address is: <http://www.drl.state.wi.us>.

The Reports of Decisions include final orders issued by the Department of Regulation and Licensing and the Boards attached to the Department. Decisions routinely included are decisions in cases initiated by the filing of a formal complaint or petition for summary suspension, disciplinary decisions reached through stipulation, cases dismissed without discipline, interim orders staying imposition of

discipline, orders modifying limitations previously imposed and court decisions relating to orders issued by the Department or a Board. The reports do not include decisions to deny or grant an initial credential application or renewal application unless the grant or denial followed a hearing and relates to a ground for discipline.

Reports are prepared each month and take about four weeks to process from the close of the reporting period. The decisions are indexed by year and month, and within each, by respondent and by profession.

## **ARCHITECTS SECTION NEWS**

### Section Meeting Dates in 2001

March 7, May 2, July 11, September 5, November 14

All meetings are held at 1400 East Washington Avenue, Madison, WI. Meetings are open to the public.

## **LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS SECTION NEWS**

### Section Meeting Dates in 2001

April 11, August 8, October 10

All meetings are held at 1400 East Washington Avenue, Madison, WI. Meetings are open to the public.

### Jay Fernholz Awarded American Society of Landscape Architects Fellowship

Jay Fernholz was inducted as an American Society of Landscape Architect Fellow at a formal dinner and investiture ceremony held during the ASLA Annual Meeting & Expo in St. Louis, Missouri, on Saturday, October 28, 2000. The Society honored members of the new class following a brief presentation of their work and presented them with a medal and a certificate of recognition as an ASLA Fellow.

The American Society of Landscape Architects recognized Jay Fernholz as one of 25 extraordinary landscape architects from around the country. The Fellows program recognizes excellence in four categories: (1) works of landscape architecture; (2) administrative work; (3) knowledge; and (4) service to the profession. Currently, there are only 508 living ASLA Fellows compared to an estimated 30,000 landscape architects in the United States. The designation of Fellow notifies all ASLA members that the Fellows’ peers have recognized the individual as having accomplished extraordinary work in the elected category over a sustained period of time.

The American Society of Landscape Architects noted Jay’s contributions toward raising the collective consciousness of landscape architecture within the state of Wisconsin and the Midwest region, and toward

elevating the Wisconsin ASLA Chapter as the driving force for landscape architecture within the state. Perhaps Jay's most important contribution has been his efforts to obtain registration for landscape architects in Wisconsin. Jay was an unremitting force in lobbying the Wisconsin legislature and governor to adopt this legislation in April 1984. He has also been a strong proponent of erosion control, stream bank stabilization, and bluff preservation in the Midwest's driftless region. Jay promoted passage of La Crosse County's strong Construction Erosion Control Ordinance and was instrumental in discouraging development of critical ridge-top scenic areas. He also successfully prevented encroachment on a 1,600 acre La Crosse River Marsh wetland area that was targeted to become a major transportation corridor.

The Department of Regulation and Licensing and the Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Designers congratulate Jay Fernholz on his receiving the American Society of Landscape Architects Fellows Award.

#### LSA Proposed Legislation

Under current law, an applicant for registration as a landscape architect must pass a written exam or written and oral exams. A legislative proposal will include language requiring that the exam include questions designed to demonstrate knowledge of the design needs of people with physical disabilities and of relevant statutes and codes.

### **PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER SECTION NEWS**

#### Section Meeting Dates in 2001

March 2, May 4, July 13, September 7, November 2  
All meetings are held at 1400 East Washington Avenue, Madison, WI. Meetings are open to the public.

#### Professional Engineers Examination Dates for 2001

<u>Exam Date</u>	<u>Deadline for Applications</u>
April 20-21, 2001	February 16, 2001
October 26-27, 2001	August 27, 2001

#### Professional Engineers Proposed Legislation

The Professional Engineers Section is proposing legislation revising sec. 443.09 (4), Stats., to require all professional engineer registration applicants to successfully pass written or written and oral examinations. Current law exempts applicants under sec. 443.04 (1) (d), Stats. from taking the written or written and oral examinations. The Section believes technological advances require a means to verify that applicants meet the minimum competency standard of skill and knowledge to safely practice professional engineering in Wisconsin.

#### Ethics Matter – Use of Registration Seal

It is the basis of our personal credibility. It is what our profession relies on in the delivery of engineering services to people of the state of Wisconsin. We as individuals and as a profession are obligated to ensure that the designs, plans and products that we create are safe. To do this we must ensure that the plans we sign are our own. That means we are not selling our signatures or approval, but that we understand the content of the product being created, that we are involved in its production and delivery, and that we accept responsibility for the result. It comes down to a very old symbol and the meaning behind it. Our signature and seal is a representation of our integrity and our reputation. It is our bond with the people of the state of Wisconsin – our assurance that 'on our watch' no harm will come to them. It is not to be taken lightly and we should never give away or sell something this precious. Ethics matters.

#### Terry Richard's Report on ABET Review Process

Terry Richard represented the Section at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville six-year review of its engineering program for accreditation by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), from October 22-24, 2000.

One of the primary goals of ABET is to supply state boards of registration a means by which the educational credentials of applicants for registration can be evaluated and validated. Educational programs in engineering which are accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET meet the basic requirements of preparing a person academically to enter the engineering profession. Part of the responsibility of the state boards of registration is to make certain that the universities within their jurisdiction have programs that are providing adequate engineering education. The accreditation processes of ABET provide one means for evaluating these programs. ABET invites state boards to provide observers to the accreditation process.

Comprehensive reviews, known as general reviews, must be conducted simultaneously for all accredited programs at an institution at intervals no longer than six years. The normal accreditation process includes the review of a program self-study document submitted by the university about four months before the site visit; an on-site visit and review by an evaluation team selected by ABET; and the preparation of a report by the review team that is submitted to the university. Interim reviews (after the general review) may occur between the periodic general reviews when weaknesses or deficiencies are founded in a prior review.

The engineering departments at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville had completed their last engineering accreditation review in the 1994-95

academic year. At that time there were four departments (civil, mechanical, electrical and industrial engineering) that were reviewed and all were accredited with only minor concerns. In this ABET general review the above-mentioned programs and additional programs in Environmental Engineering, Industrial Engineering, and Engineering Physics were reviewed.

This report focuses on the ABET EC2000 review team and **process**, rather than the ABET review **results**. Mr. Richard, was present for all team and college meetings, and specific departmental reviews.

It is Mr. Richard's opinion that the team assembled by ABET for the Platteville site visit was one of the best groups he has been associated with in 25 years of working at major universities in this country. The team chair was extremely well organized and well prepared for the site visit. Her team management techniques and skills were excellent. The review team was a diverse group of faculty members, university administrators, and industrial leaders. They were assembled from Hewlett-Packard-Vancouver, WA, the University of Cincinnati, Texas Tech, San Diego State University, Michigan Tech., Alfred University-State University of New York, and Tennessee Tech. This was one of the most effective, well-prepared, capable, and hardworking ABET review teams that Mr. Richard has ever encountered. Each member of the team had done a significant amount of institutional and departmental investigation before arriving on site. Each member was extremely capable, had significant knowledge of the new ABET review criteria, was extremely thorough, and worked in a most professional manner. Most significantly, members of this team worked very well together, which is a credit to each individual and the team leader.

The administration and individual faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Platteville did a very good job of preparation for this site visit by ABET. All documentation was comprehensive and complete. Individuals from all departments were very accommodating. Aside from the ABET team and University administration meeting, Terry Richard focused on the presentations and site visits to the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Mr. Richard noted the high quality of the students and faculty of this department. The quality of engineer produced by this program is excellent.

## **DESIGNER SECTION NEWS**

### Section Meeting Dates in 2001

April 5, July 19, October 4

All meetings are held at 1400 East Washington Avenue, Madison, WI. Meetings are open to the public.

## Designers Examination Dates for 2001

<u>Exam Date</u>	<u>Deadline for Applications</u>
March 10, 2001	January 10, 2001
July 14, 2001	May 11, 2001
November 11, 2001	September 7, 2001

## Designer Proposed Legislation

Under current law an applicant can obtain a designer permit by either: 1) having 8 or more years of experience in specialized engineering design work and pass a written exam; or 2) being over 35 years old and having 12 years of experience in Wisconsin in the preparation of plans, specifications, designs and layouts in specific fields. In addition, any academic training in engineering technology or participation in an approved apprenticeship program may be considered equivalent to not more than 4 years of experience. Graduation from a course in a subject other than engineering technology is counted as the equivalent of 2 years of experience. The proposed legislation will eliminate the second alternative and change the first alternative by decreasing the experience from 8 years to 6 years. In respect to an applicant who has graduated from a course in a subject other than engineering technology, the board may (but is not required to) count that course work as the equivalent of not more than 3 years of experience.

## **LAND SURVEYORS SECTION NEWS**

### Section Meeting Dates in 2001

June 14, October 11

All meetings are held at 1400 East Washington Avenue, Madison, WI. Meetings are open to the public.

## Land Surveyors Examination Dates for 2001

<u>Exam Date</u>	<u>Deadline for Applications</u>
April 20-21, 2001	February 16, 2001
October 26-27, 2001	August 27, 2001

## **DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

### **JAMES M POEHLING, PE**

#### **ONALASKA WI**

#### **REPRIMAND/LIMITED**

Professional engineer registration expired in July of 1980 and did not renew it until on or about 6/15/2000. Worked as a professional engineer during the time his license was expired. Effective 9/1/2000. Secs. 443.02(2),(3), 443.11(1), Stats. Case #LS0009018ENG

### **SANDIP K GUHA, PE**

#### **BOISE ID**

#### **LIMITED/COSTS**

Disciplined in Nevada and Texas based upon allegations of submitting incomplete plans and failing to exercise proper care in his review of plans and calculations prepared by unlicensed personnel working under his supervision. Effective 11/10/2000. A-E 8.03(3)(a) Case #LS0011102ENG

Department of Regulation and Licensing  
Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects,  
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**(608) 266-5511**

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<b>Application Processing &amp; Requirements</b>	<b>Press 42</b>
<b>Whether A Person is Licensed</b>	<b>Press 442</b>

## Visit the Department's Web Site

[www.drl.state.wi.us](http://www.drl.state.wi.us)

For our new "Online Verification of Credential Holders" click on the "Business and Professional License Lookup" button on the Department's home page.

Copies of the Regulatory Digest are on the Web.

Send comments to [dorl@drl.state.wi.us](mailto:dorl@drl.state.wi.us)

## Wisconsin Statutes and Code

Copies of the Wisconsin Statutes and Administrative Code Relating to the Regulation of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers and Land Surveyors can be ordered from the Department. Include your name, address, county and a check payable to the Department of Regulation and Licensing in the amount of \$5.28. The latest edition is dated January 2001.

## Change of Name or Address?

Please photocopy the mailing label of this digest, make changes in name or address, and return it to the Department. Confirmation of changes is not automatically provided.

**SECTION 440.11, STATS, ALLOWS FOR A \$50 PENALTY TO BE IMPOSED WHEN CHANGES ARE NOT REPORTED WITHIN 30 DAYS.**

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